

# To the Town Council of the Borough of Yeovil.

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Yeovil,

January, 1904.

Gentlemen,

Owing to the death of Dr. Garland, your late Medical Officer of Health, I have made the Annual Report for 1903 on the health of your Borough.

Being in office only since the latter part of November, the Report will necessarily be not so detailed as under ordinary circumstances.

The statistics are based on the size of the Borough, previous to extension, with population, 11,700, and area 852 acres. Area, 700 acres. Population, 9,838, census 1901 (unrevised figures). Density 4·75. Geology, upper and middle lias. Yeovil sands ; Industries, Glove-making, also Foundries, Tallow Melting, Butter Making, and Brewing.

## *General Vital Statistics.*

During the year, 250 Births were registered within the Borough,—117 Males, 133 Females,—one less than in 1902 ; the Birth Rate per 1,000 for 1903 being 25·41. The rate for England and Wales is 28·4.

There were 14 Illegitimate Births in 1903, compared with 15 in 1902.

The total number of Deaths registered was 148,—62 Males, 86 Females,—an increase of 13 on 1902, but of these 22 must be deducted as the number who did not belong to the district. This leaves a Nett Death Rate of 12·8 per 1,000 for 1903, compared with 12·19 for 1902. The rate for England and Wales is 15·4 per 1,000 in 1903.

## *Infantile Death Rate.*

22 children died under one year of age, compared with 30 in 1902, giving an Infantile Death Rate of 88 per 1,000 births, and these were returned chiefly under “premature birth,” none being due to any of the Zymotic Diseases. For England and Wales during 1903, the rate per 1,000 births is 132.

## *Phthisis Death Rate.*

During 1903 there were 12 deaths from Phthisis, contrasted with 7 during 1902, and resulting in a Phthisis Death Rate of 1·21 per 1,000. Under “Other Respiratory Diseases,” 23 deaths were registered in 1903, compared with 29 in 1902.

## *Zymotic Death Rate.*

From the seven principal Zymotic Diseases—Small-Pox, Measles, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, “Fever” (Typhus, simple continued, and Enteric) and Diarrhœa—only one death was registered, that being Enteric Fever. This Death Rate for England and Wales in 1903 is 1·46 per 1,000.

The causes of all the deaths having occurred in the district during 1903, arranged according to age periods, are shown in the following table.

### *Causes of, and Ages at Death during Year 1903.*

CAUSES OF DEATH			DEATHS IN OR BELONGING TO WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.						
			All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.
Fever—Enteric ...	...	...	1				1		
Phthisis ...	...	...	12				1	10	1
Other tubercular diseases ...	...	...	3		2		1		
Cancer, malignant disease ...	...	...	10					9	1
Bronchitis ...	...	...	12	3				1	8
Pneumonia ...	...	...	6		1	1		4	
Other diseases of Respiratory organs ...	...	...	5		5				
Alcoholis Cirrhosis of liver			2					1	1
Venereal diseases ...	...	...	1					1	
Premature birth ...	...	...	13	13					
Diseases and accidents of parturition ...	...	...	1					1	
Heart diseases ...	...	...	20			1		9	10
Accidents ...	...	...	6	1	1	1		2	1
Suicides ...	...	...	2					2	
All other causes ...	...	...	54	5	1		1	14	33
All causes ...	...	...	148	22	10	3	4	54	55

### *Infectious Diseases.*

75 cases of Infectious Diseases were notified during 1903, viz. :—Diphtheria 2, Erysipelas 6, Scarlet Fever 66, Enteric Fever 1.

The Scarlet Fever epidemic began in January, 1903, as the result of the exposure of a pupil teacher whilst in an infectious stage ; it continued throughout the year, necessitating the closure of the schools for two months in the summer. At the time of writing, however, the epidemic seems to be on the decline.

### *Isolation Hospital.*

71 cases were admitted into the Isolation Hospital, all being Scarlet Fever, and 12 of these were from the Rural District ; at one period during the year as many as 23 were in at one time, and several of a severe type. It reflects the greatest credit on the capability of the Nurse in charge, that single-handed, and under most adverse conditions no fatal cases occurred.

The nurse's quarters are of the most primitive description—in fact, practically non-existent—and I should recommend the addition of sufficient and adequate accommodation for, at least, two nurses.

To have the requisite amount of cubic space for cases of Infectious Disease, there is at present only room for four beds in the Hospital, and as the Local Government Board strongly advise that there should never be less than one bed per 1,000 of the population, it follows that there should be provision for 11 beds.

The “ Berthon Huts,” erected in the summer, are good for an emergency, but are unsuitable for several cases in an acute stage of illness and were not intended to be so used.

### *Disinfection.*

As a result of the Scarlet Fever out-break, 75 premises, houses, and public buildings were disinfected with Formalin Vapour, walls stripped of paper and lime washed ; 61 sets of articles and 73 persons also undergoing disinfection.



### ***Disinfector.***

The “Hot Air” Disinfector, removed to the Town Yard early last year, does not fulfil modern requirements, and is unreliable, as the available temperature and duration of exposure are limited by the tendency to scorch the articles exposed, also it is impossible to thoroughly disinfect objects of moderate thickness, and most important in the absence of separate rooms with separate entrances reserved for infected and disinfected goods respectively, purified objects are most liable to be reinfected.

A Steam Disfecting apparatus of the latest design erected at the Isolation Hospital is what ought to be provided.

### ***Ambulance.***

The vehicle at present used for taking cases of Infectious Disease to the Isolation Hospital is in a very dilapidated condition and needs replacing by an ambulance suitable for the purpose and at least weather proof.

### ***Slaughter Houses.***

The Slaughter Houses have been inspected regularly, and the improvements necessary in several have been carried out during the year.

By adopting the Public Health Amendment Act, 1890, power is given to limit to twelve months licenses granted to Slaughter Houses. This was also recommended in the Report for 1902, and other advantages would result from the adoption of this Act.

### ***Tallow Factory.***

This has been visited periodically and the means employed to prevent effluvia is satisfactory.

### ***Dairies and Milkshops.***

With the exception that a stricter supervision is required over the manner in which milk is distributed, these are kept in order.

### ***Sale of Food and Drugs Act.***

Samples have been taken regularly and sent to the Public Analyst and in one case proceedings were necessary.

### ***Factory Act.***

The requirements of this Act have in the main been observed, and the sanitary condition of the Factories and Workshops is good.

*Respecting the Water and Sewerage, Mr. Oddy, Borough Surveyor, has added the following :—*

***Water Supply and Sewerage.***

“ The supply of water during the year has been sufficient for all purposes. The waters of the Haydon Wood Springs have been connected, and the works necessary for the taking of the water of the Stockwood Spring are to be commenced shortly. The contracts are let. When these are completed the supply of water will be still further augmented by about 250,000 gallons per day, and the anxiety as to an adequate supply will be allayed for some years.”

“ The Sewerage Works have been completed during the year, and are working most satisfactorily.”

“ There are several old stone and brick sewers of indifferent construction in the Borough, the relaying of which the Town Council should take in hand as soon as convenient.”

In conclusion, through the courtesy of Mr. HOWELL, Yeovil, I find that the mean rainfall for Yeovil during 1903, was 37·38 inches, being 10 inches above the average. Other points of meteorological interest are not observed in this district.

G. W. MIDDLEMISS, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.

*Acting Medical Officer of Health,*

*Yeovil (Urban).*



Borough



of Yeovil.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

MUNICIPAL OFFICES,

DR. GARLAND.  
M.O.H. (Urban).

YEovil, 24. 11. 1904.

Dear Sir,

I have much  
pleasure in sending the Health  
Report for 1903.

Yours faithfully  
G. W. Middleton  
M.B. D.P.H.

Wt. Yeovil.

The Librarian  
British Medical Association

# ***Public Health Report***

FOR THE

BOROUGH OF YEOVIL.

1903.

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W BEALE COLLINS, PRINTER, YEOVIL.